(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in view of the above hike Government would ensure that power supply would be uninterrupted; and

(d) whether, at present, there is no power supply for hours together in certain areas in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003, determination of tariff to be charged by the distribution licensees is the statutory function of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that its Multi Year Tariff (MYT) Regulations for the period 2007 to 2011 have already been notified by the Government of NCT of Delhi on 30th May, 2007. For deciding the tariff orders for 2007-08, the DERC has given in the Licensees 90 days time to file their Petitions under the MYT regime. Meanwhile, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL) have filed Petitions before DERC for a hike in tariffs on the ground that the Tariff Orders under the MYT regime for 2007-08 may be issued as late as November, 2007 and they are facing high power purchase cost. Till such time the DERC takes a view on the Petitions for interim hike or on the Petitions yet to be filed by the Distribution Companies under the MYT regime, the exsisting tariff structure in the NCT of Delhi shall continue.

(c) and (d) Section 86(1)(i) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Commission shall specify or enforce standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees. The DERC has informed that the Government of NCT of Delhi has already constituted a 'Delhi Power Procurement Group' for buying power for Delhi; the Group has entered into Power Purchase Agreements even at the high rates ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per unit so as to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the citizens of Delhi. Furthermore, in case of short supply, load shedding takes place first in those areas where Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) are high.

Rural electrification in Maharashtra

252. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government had requested for sanctioning electrification of remaining 17 districts of that State under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana;

(b) if so, by when, and the total estimate of these proposals;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning these proposals; and

(d) the present position of these proposals and by when these would be endorsed so that the State can achieve the target of total rural electrification before December, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) In Phase-I of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) 235 projects were taken up for implementation out of which 4 were of Maharashtra Sanctioning/execution of balance 30 projects of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 439.93 crore is dependent on approval of the Government for continuation of RGGVY in the Eleventh Plan period.

RGGVY envisages electrification of all the un-electrified villages and provision of access to electricity to all rural households in the country, including Maharashtra by 2009.

Power shortage in Maharashtra

253. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the electricity shortage and problems being faced by the people and industrialists, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for increasing the electricity generation and supply;

(d) whether Government are considering any exclusive proposal for increasing electricity generation in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State/UT is in the purview of the respective State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by establishing power plants in central sector through CPSUs. The following steps have been taken/are being taken to improve overall availability of power in the country:

(i) Augmentation of generation capacity to the tune of over 78,500 MW is proposed for the 11th Plan.

(ii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route.

(iii) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting With adoption of better operation and maintenance (O & M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a pre-cursor to renovation and modernization.

(iv) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.

(v) Harnessing surplus captive power into grid.

(vi) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission system in State under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT & C) Losses.

(vii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.

(viii) Strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.

(ix) Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.